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SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES

Report by the Director General

1. In resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/545, the General Conference last year requested the Director General "to continue to take all possible measures to ensure the full implementation of resolution GC(XXX)/RES/468 and to report to the General Conference at its thirty-fifth regular session in this regard". Also, the Director General was requested to bring resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/545 to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Action by the Director General

2. The Director General brought resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/545 to the attention of the Secretary General in a letter dated 18 October 1990.

3. On 25 February 1991, the Director General had discussions with Mr. N.P. van Heerden, Director General of the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. W. Stumpf, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of South Africa, on matters related to a full-scope safeguards agreement between South Africa and the Agency.

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4. In March 1991 the Director General paid an official visit to South Africa, during which he held consultations with the South African authorities in continuation of the February discussions in Vienna. In addition, he paid official visits to Namibia and Zimbabwe, where he had discussions on the general question of non-proliferation and safeguards in the southern part of Africa.

Developments since the Conference's thirty-fourth regular session

5. In a letter dated 12 July 1991, the Permanent Mission of the United States of America, one of the depositories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), notified the Agency that South Africa had deposited an instrument of accession to NPT in Washington on 10 July 1991.

6. The Secretariat is currently in contact with the South African authorities regarding the conclusion of a safeguards agreement in connection with NPT, and it is hoped that such an agreement will be before the Board for approval in September.